

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

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R 220150Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014590

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SU, US

SUBJECT: GOS/USG RELATIONS

1. PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO KHARTOUM FOR SUDANESE CHIEFS
OF MISSION CONFERENCE, SUDANESE AMBASSADOR EISSA CALLED
ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEE JANUARY 21. IN ADDITION
TO HIS MAIN POINTS ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE,
EISSA DISCUSSED ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, LIBYAN-SPONSORED THREATS
TO SUDAN AND DJIBOUTI.

2. EISSA SAID HE UNDERSTANDS OUR BILATERAL AID TO SUDAN
THIS YEAR WOULD BE ABOUT DOLS. 5 MILLION, A FIGURE WHICH
HE NOTED DID NOT SEEM TO MEASURE UP TO THE LEVEL OF
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EXPECTATIONS GENERATED AMONG THE SUDANESE PEOPLE BY
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. (HE DID NOT RELATE HOW HE
ARRIVED AT THIS FIGURE WHICH DEPT HAS NEVER MENTIONED TO
GOS.) HE STRESSED DESIRABILITY IN MATCHING HIGH LEVEL OF
RESPONSE BY U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR WITH EXPANDED AID PROGRAMS.
U.S. FACES A PROBLEM OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN AFRICA,
EISSA SAID, AND BEST WAY TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM IS TO

HELP AFRICANS SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY RURAL POPULATIONS.

3. EISSA EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN PROGRAMS TO TRAIN TECHNICIANS AND TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY, SUBJECTS HE HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED WITH AN ENTHUSIASTIC SENATOR HUMPHREY (WHO ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION TO VISIT SUDAN AT UNSPECIFIED DATE). HE EVEN SUGGESTED THAT FUNDS EARMARKED FOR PROGRAMS NOT POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT IN ETHIOPIA MIGHT BE USED IN SUDAN. ACCORDING TO THE AMBASSADOR, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI SINCERELY SEEKS A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S., BECAUSE HE BELIEVES U.S. SHOULD BE MORE POSITIVELY INTERESTED IN AFRICA IN A CONSISTENT WAY, NOT JUST IN AND OUT WHEN THERE IS A MILITARY PROBLEM. EISSA ASKED AMB. SCHAUFLE IF THERE WAS ANY WAY TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONSHIP BESIDES WAITING FOR SLOW, NATURAL EVOLUTION. MORE RAPID DEVELOPMENT WOULD ALSO HELP NEUTRALIZE THOSE ELEMENTS IN SUDAN WHO OPPOSE THE WISDOM OF CLOSER TIES WITH THE U.S. AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE EXPLAINED THAT PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING AN AID PROGRAM TOOK TIME, ESPECIALLY IN A CASE LIKE SUDAN'S WHERE NORMALIZATION TOOK PLACE AFTER THE FY 77 BUDGET WAS COMPLETED. WE CERTAINLY WANT TO HELP BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN LEGAL AND BUREAUCRATIC REQUIREMENTS WHICH MUST BE FULFILLED; WE MUST DEAL WITH CONGRESS. ON THE WHOLE, SCHAUFLE SAID, THE TENDENCY OF OUR PROGRAMS IN SUDAN IS TOWARD EXPANSION. MOREOVER, WE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL ALWAYS TO WARN GOS NOT TO LET ITS EXPECTATIONS GROW TOO RAPIDLY.

4. EISSA SAID GOS FACES SERIOUS NEW PROBLEMS WITH
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ETHIOPIA AND LIBYA; THEY INHIBIT SUDAN'S MAIN INTEREST WHICH IS TO DEVELOP ITS OWN RESOURCES. IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT IS BREWING IN ETHIOPIA BUT CLEARLY EPMG IS NOT CARRYING OUT ITS ORIGINAL PLANS. THE DERG IS SUBJECT TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCES FROM COUNTRIES LIKE LIBYA, BUT BIG QUESTION IS WHETHER ETHIOPIA CAN GET WHAT IT NEEDS FROM LIBYA. THE U.S.-ETHIOPIA RELATIONSHIP ALSO COMES INTO PLAY. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF U.S. WOULD EXPLORE WHAT ROLE IT MIGHT PLAY IN ERITREA WHERE INSURGENTS ARE GETTING STRONGER. GOS HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT IT COULD PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN ERITREA AND FEELS THERE IS STILL MUCH TRUST IN SUDAN THROUGHOUT THE AREA, EISSA UNDERLINED. AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE TOLD EISSA THAT USG ALSO WONDERS JUST WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ETHIOPIA AND IS PREOCCUPIED ABOUT OUTSIDE INFLUENCES THERE. ALTHOUGH U.S.-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONSHIP IS SHAKEN, WE STILL HOPEFUL WE HAVE A ROLE. U.S. IS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO SUGGESTIONS FOR WAYS WE CAN HELP THE ERITREAN PROBLEM BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHAT WE COULD DO.

5. EISSA PREDICTED THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS ARE LIKELY TO BECOME MORE DEMANDING AND THAT AFTER SOUTHERN AFRICA, PROBLEMS OF THE HORN ARE MOST SERIOUS. DJIBOUTI IS IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, AND EISSA SAID HE FELT A FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE AFTER INDEPENDENCE COULD BE HELPFUL IF SOMALIA ACCEPTED IT. THE SOMALIS HAVE BEGUN TO WORRY ABOUT INDIRECT SOVIET INTEREST IN ETHIOPIA AND HAVE MENTIONED THEIR CONCERNS TO THE SUDANESE, HE POINTED OUT.

6. COMMENT: UNDOUBTEDLY, MAIN PURPOSE OF EISSA'S PRESENTATION WAS TO APPEAL FOR INCREASE IN U.S. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. THIS IS FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM SUDANESE EMBASSY THAT THERE MAY BE SOME DISSATISFACTION AT OUR PACE OF BUILDING AID PROGRAM. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER EISSA WAS ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OR WHETHER HE SIMPLY WISHES TO BE ABLE TO SAY HE HAS MADE CONFIDENTIAL

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A STRONG PITCH FOR INCREASED AID WHEN HE RETURNS HOME NEXT WEEK.

HABIB

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Message Attributes

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